

Chichikogusa

Chapter 13
BY TAGAWA MI

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田
川
ミ

THANK YOU FOR YOUR
PATIENCE! SOMEHOW HERE
WE ARE AT THE THIRD
VOLUME ALREADY.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH!
THIS TIME, WE TAKE A LITTLE
BREAK FROM OUR USUAL
TRAVEL FOR A HOMECOMING.
I HOPE YOU ENJOY!

—TAGAWA MI



3

ち
ち
こ

ぐ
さ

【父子草】

BLADE
COMICS



【父子草】

3

田
川
ミ

MAG
Garden



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雑誌53939-51
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マッグガーデン



DEVOTED HUSBAND

OUR UNCLE

WHAT'S THIS, ALL OF A SUDDEN?

CAN YOU PLEASE GIVE ME SOME ATTENTION, TOO?

WELL,

HEY, HOW COME KANOEMON ISN'T MARRIED?!

GLOMP!

IT'S JUST THAT LATELY YOU HAVEN'T EVEN TOUCHED ME!

HE'S PROBABLY JUST GIVEN UP ON FINDING A BRIDE.

HE DOESN'T EARN MUCH, HE'S NOT STABLE, AND HE LOOKS SHADY.

ARE YOU REALLY OKAY WITH THAT?

Especially given her age.

You've got it bad!

SHE FINALLY TOUCHED ME.

BUT YOU KNOW, SHIROU LIKES KANOEMON!

Ha ha ha!

NO WAY!

WHY, DO YOU WANT TO MARRY HIM, SIS?

THIS GUY GETS WEIRDER AS THE YEARS GO BY...

BOTH BROTHERS

HONESTLY, AS THE YEARS GO BY HER LOVELINESS BECOMES MORE FULL-BODIED LIKE A FINE WINE. HER BREASTS, HER BUTTOCKS... AH, TRULY THERE IS NOTHING MORE WONDERFUL THAN GROWING OLD WITH SUCH A WIFE...

SIGH

WHY ARE THEY SPEAKING SO LOUD?!

THAT'S RIGHT. HE'LL NEVER BE MARRIED. HE'LL BE HERE WITH US FOREVER!

I BET THAT WILL MAKE HIM SO HAPPY TOO!

DAN OFF

REALLY BAD AT IT

YOU SAY
YOU HAVEN'T
SEEN MUCH OF
ME
LATELY?

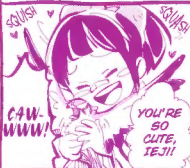


I'M IEJI.

SURE!



BATTLE-
DORE*?



IT'S
BEEN
RAINING,
SO I'VE
BEEN
HIDING.

SORRY!
TRY
AGAIN.

AH!

YA!



I HAVE UNTIL
NEW YEAR'S
BEFORE I
HAVE TO
WATCH OVER
THAT PARENT
AND CHILD
AGAIN.

ieji! Where
are you?!

AS A
RESULT,
I'VE BEEN
RESTING.



SHUFFLE

SHUFFLE

THIS
TIME I'LL
DEFINITELY
GET IT!

AH!

HUH?
WHERE'D
IT GO?



SO DON'T LOOK
AT ME WITH
THOSE PITVING
EYES! IT'S
REALLY
ANNOYING!!

WE WERE
PLAYING SO
LONG MY
FACE GOT
COMPLETELY
DARK.

PPFT

HELLO,
I'M BACK.



* battledore was an early form of badminton.

ちちぐさ

【父子草】





CHAPTER 13	AUNT AND NEPHEW
CHAPTER 14	HOMECOMING AND TRACES OF HIS WIFE
CHAPTER 15	SHIORI AND KAYA
CHAPTER 16	SHIORI'S WISH
CHAPTER 17	SHIROU AND THE BROTHER AND SISTER
CHAPTER 18	THE FATHER AND CHILD'S NEW JOURNEYS



SOMEHOW,
THE INSTANT
SHIROU WAS
BORN,

I KNEW.

AFTER ALL, HE
CAME FROM
SHIORI AND ME.



CHICHIROGUSA

[FATHER AND CHILD GRASS]

AUTHOR: TAGAWA MI







THAT'S A
MARVELOUS
NEW YEAR'S
FINE.



THE END OF THE
YEAR, WITH ALL
THIS GOING ON.

SIGH





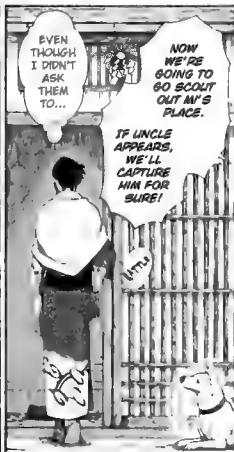
AND I STILL HAVEN'T
SEEN THAT BROTHER
OF MINE, WHO SAID
HE WOULD BE HERE
IN DECEMBER.



FOR THAT
MATTER, I
HAVEN'T EVEN
SEEN IEJI
LATELY.













FLAP FLAP

OCTOBER SIXTH,
1:46 AM. A BOY
WAS BORN. THE
MOTHER IS
SHIORI, AND
TORAKICHI IS
THE FATHER.



WHEN I WAS 8
YEARS OLD,

UNEXPECTEDLY
GOT TO SEE
MOM GIVING
BIRTH TO TORA.



THE
CHILD'S
NAME IS
SHIROU...

I—







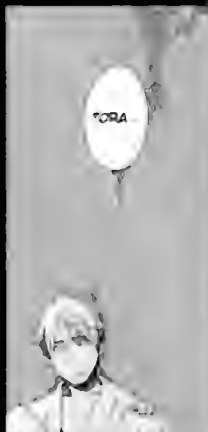
IT WAS EXACTLY
THE SAME AS
WHEN HIS
FATHER HAD
BEEN BORN.



SHIROU...



AND JUST LIKE
THAT TIME, IT WAS
NECESSARY FOR
ME TO KEEP HIM IN
MY HANDS.



TORA



IT'LL
BE
OKAY.

YOUR
AUNTIE WILL
CARRY
YOU...

LET'S SAY
GOODBYE
TO YOUR
MOTHER.



YOU DON'T
NEED TO
WORRY

ABOUT
SHIRUJI

WHEN YOU
GO OUT TO
WORK, YOU
CAN LEAVE
HIM HERE,
JIKAI?







AND HE
GETS SICK
SO EASILY.
IT MUST BE
VERY HARD.

HE HASN'T
SAID A SINGLE
WORD. DON'T
YOU THINK IT'S
STRANGE?

HE'S
ALREADY
TWO, ISN'T
HE?



TATSUMI.

TATSUMI.



THAT'S THE
SECOND
TIME THIS
MONTH HE'S
HAD A
FEVER...

AS FOR
MY OWN
CHILDREN,

IS SHIROU
SICK AGAIN?

IT'S RARE
TO SEE
YOU
FALLING
ASLEEP
LIKE THIS.



OF COURSE
THEY WERE
IMPORTANT
TO ME.

BUT SHIROU, WHOSE
MOTHER PASSED AWAY
WHEN HE WAS TWO,
AND WHOSE FATHER
WAS NEVER AT HOME,
WAS ALSO LIKE ONE OF
MY CHILDREN.

WE RAISED
HIM EXACTLY
THE SAME.



WE'VE
TURNED YOUR
DEMON OF AN
AUNT INTO A
PRINCESS!

Looks
pretty good
on you.

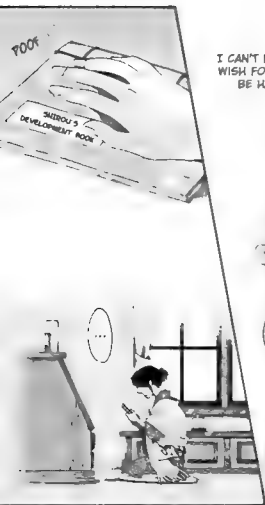
SNIFFLE

THIS
IS BAD,
SHIROU!

THAT'S
WHY...

RUSTLE

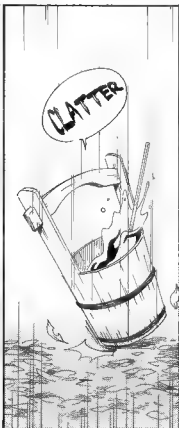
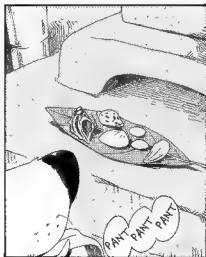




I CAN'T HELP BUT
WISH FOR HIM TO
BE HAPPY.









WOOWOOF!

WOOF!





WE'RE
HOME!







HAVE
YOU
BEEN
WELL?



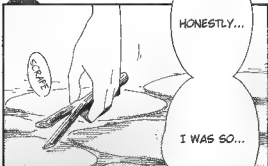


SIGH

17
TORA?

EVEN AFTER SUCH
A LONG ABSENCE,
YOU'RE NOT EVEN
GOING TO GREET
YOUR OWN SISTER,

SHIVER



HONESTLY...

I WAS SO...



OW!

WORRIED!

THWACK



FIRST OF ALL...
WELCOME.



CRACK

THERE'S A
MOUNTAIN-LOAD OF
THINGS I WANT TO
SAY TO YOU AND
ASK YOU.



LOOM

I'VE BEEN
WAITING
FOR THIS.

?!

I'M
HOME.
BIG
SIS...

4.
YES.

CHICHIRUGUSA - EXTRA STORY ELEVEN

I WAS SOMEHOW
ABLE TO RETURN
TO MY HOME
VILLAGE.

IN A QUIET
PERIOD AT
THE END OF
SOME WORK.

COMING HOME



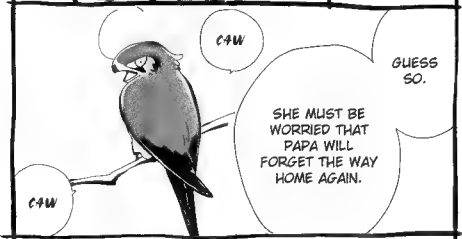
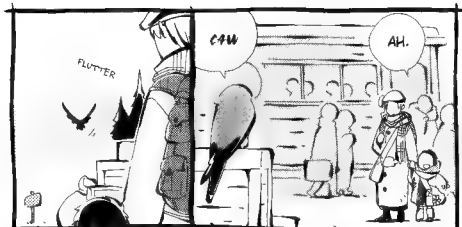
I BET SHE'LL
BE PRETTY
ANGRY.

I'M NOT
QUITE SURE
HOW SHE'LL
LOOK WHEN
WE MEET.



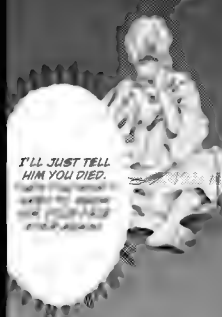
AND THAT'S NOT THE
ONLY SCARY THING...







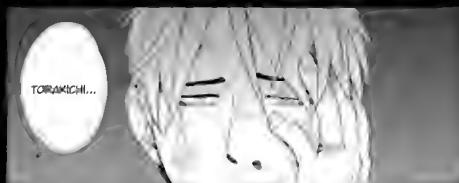
JUST LET ME
RAISE SHIROU!



I'LL JUST TELL
HIM YOU DIED.



IT'S BEEN TWO
YEARS NOW
SINCE YOU LEFT
KUNIE WITH
WHY ARE YOU
SNIVELING BACK
NOW...?!



TORAKICHI...



WHY DON'T YOU
LEAVE NOW AND
TAKE YOUR SON
WITH YOU?

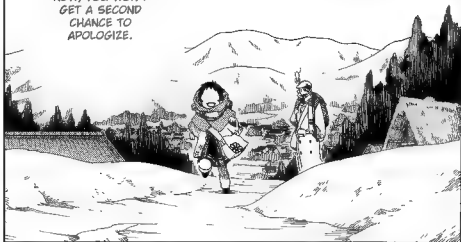
TATSUMI WAS
CALLED OUT
AS A MIDWIFE.

SHE'LL BE
GONE FOR
QUITE A
WHILE.



YOUR SISTER
ISN'T JOKING.

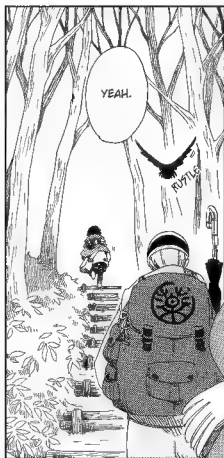
IF YOU MAKE THE
WRONG CHOICE
NOW, YOU WON'T
GET A SECOND
CHANCE TO
APOLOGIZE.





PAPA!

WE SHOULD
BE OKAY...
RIGHT?



YEAH.

RATTLE



HURRY,
COME AND
SEE!



GRIN

CHICHIROGUSA

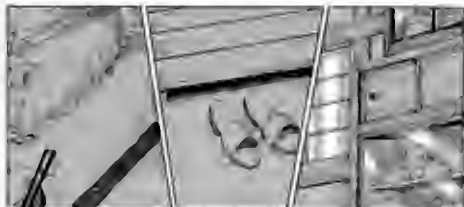
[FATHER AND CHILD GRASS]

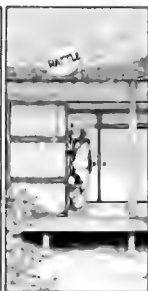
AUTHOR: TAGAWA KI



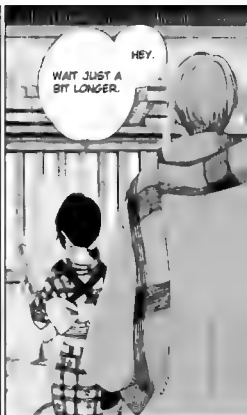
CHAPTER 14: HOMECOMING AND TRACES OF HIS WIFE







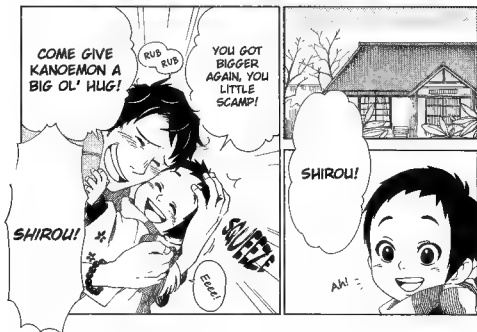




*Note: Daikon is a type of radish. When boiled, it's often served hot and with miso.









**KAPPA'S
WONDER
ELIXIR**



PASSED DOWN
BY THE KAPPA* FOR
GENERATIONS,
A MEDICINE
INCREDIBLY EFFECTIVE
FOR HEALING SPRAINS
AND BRUISES
(SUPPOSEDLY).

**YOU'RE
BEING WAY
TOO SUSPICIOUS
ABOUT IT!**

*You're even
wearing
gloves!*

THIS MIGHT
SAVE COUNT-
LESS PEOPLE'S
LIVES. EVEN A
KAPPA WOULD
BE THANKFUL
FOR IT.

AND I'M
PRETTY SURE
I'VE WORKED
OUT THE KINKS
IN IT THIS TIME.
I'VE BEEN
STUDYING
HARD.

**SCREW
OFF!**

OTHER THAN
MY SISTER,

YOU
KNOW...

I ALSO
HAVE THIS
BROTHER-IN-LAW
WHO'S VERY
CONTROLLING.

TELLING ME I
OUGHT TO TAKE
SHIROU WITH ME
WHEN I GO BACK
TO WORK, AND
THINGS LIKE
THAT...

DOES FEAR OF
TATSUMI'S ANGER
WEIGH DOWN ON
YOU THAT MUCH?

YOU SEEM LIKE
YOU'RE ABOUT
TO COLLAPSE
FROM EXHAUS-
TION.

...

Note. Kappa are legendary creatures supposed to live in rivers around Japan. They eat cucumbers and "shirikodama," small balls containing the soul, which are extracted from people's butts.



I'M
GRATEFUL.



HMM.

IS SOME-
THING
WRONG?



IF IT HADN'T
BEEN FOR THAT
BROTHER-IN-
LAW,
I'M SURE
I'D STILL BE
WANDERING
AROUND
LOST, ALL
BY MYSELF...



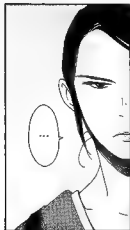
WHAT
DO YOU
MEAN?



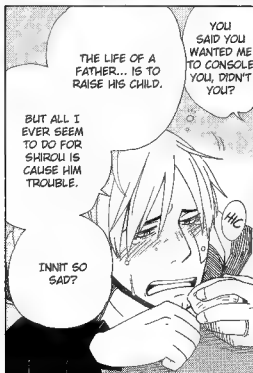














SFX: WAAAAAH!



BE
QUIET.

PEFF
FFT!

**NOOOOOO!
I DON'T
WANT
SHIROU TO
HATE ME!**

WYMAN

WELL, JUST TRY TO REMEMBER IT AS LONG AS YOU CAN. NO DOUBT IN TEN YEARS, YOU'LL BE STRUGGLING FOR THAT KIND OF REACTION.

But you already sound like an old man!

YOU'RE TERRIBLE!

IT'S NOT THAT
YOU'LL BE HATED.
YOU'LL JUST BE
VIEWED AS SOME-
THING EVEN MORE
WORTHLESS THAN
TOILET PAPER.

DON'T
WORRY,
TORAKICHI.

WAAAAAY

WHICH OF YOU
IS THE ONE
WHO GAVE
TORA SAKA?

WHO WAS IT?



THANK
YOU VERY
MUCH FOR
TODAY.

SIG!

AH.

AND HE'S
SUCH A PAIN
WHEN HE'S
DRUNK AND
WHINY LIKE
THIS...

YOU BOTH
KNOW HE'S
BAD AT
HOLDING
HIS LIQUOR!



?!



...

Why did
you only
hurt me?



I WOULD'VE
JUST STAYED
'T HOME.

!! HIC

IT'S BEEN A
LONG TIME
SINCE I ATE
YOUR COOK-
ING. IT WAS
GREAT.

THANKS FOR
INVITING ME.

OH.

AND LIS'N. NO
GETTING' MAD!

I...

WAS SO WORRIED
'BOUT A LOTTA
STUFF ON MY WAY
HERE, I GOT ALL
SELF-CONSCI'S.

HIC

'THOUGH
SHIROU
RATTED ME
OUT.

HEH
HEH

'N' I DUNNO
HOW SHIROU'LL
DO WITH ME.

TRUTH IS, I'LL
PROB'LY MAKE
YOU WORRY
AGAIN,

BUT DON'
WORRY.

...









MY WIFE GOT SO
MAD, SHE RAGED
LIKE A MIGHTY
FIRE.

WHEN MY
BROTHER-IN-
LAW RETURNED
HOME AFTER A
TWO-YEAR
ABSENCE

SAYING
THAT,
MY WIFE
WENT OFF
TO HER
WORK.



"I'M GOING TO
MAKE SURE
SHIROU NEVER
MEETS HIM
AGAIN!"



I'M SURE PART
OF WHY SHE WAS
MORE EMOTIONAL
THAN USUAL IS
BECAUSE OF MY
NEPHEW.



THAT
DAY...



I WENT AGAINST
HER WISHES FOR
THE FIRST TIME.



I WONDER WHAT IT MUST BE LIKE,
TO LOSE THE PERSON WHO'S MOST
IMPORTANT TO YOU...

IF I WERE IN
YOUR SITUATION,
I WOULDN'T BE
ABLE TO CARRY
ON AT ALL.

SAFE
TRAVELS.



IT'S NOT THAT
I FORGAVE
WHAT HE HAD
DONE, AS SUCH.



I JUST
COULDN'T
CONDEMN HIM
FOR IT, EITHER.







...

HEY,
HANA...

SHE
WAS...
WITH ME.

WHERE'S
SHIORI?!



KAYA...

CALM DOWN
AND LISTEN.

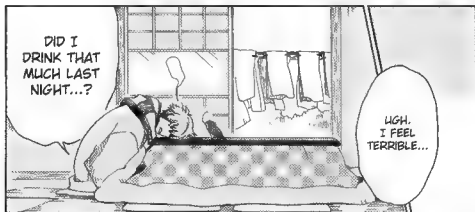
SHIORI...

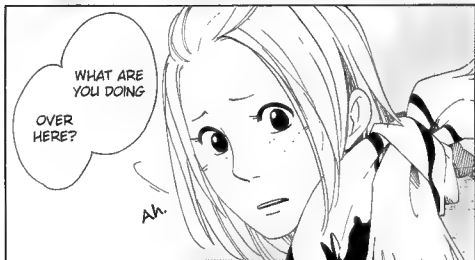
CHICHIROGUSA
[FATHER AND CHILD GRASS]

AUTHOR: TAGAWA MI



CHAPTER 15: SHIORI AND KAYA





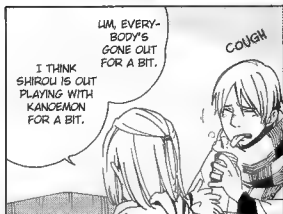


I SEE.
SORRY ABOUT
THAT.

YOU EVEN
BROUGHT
SOME OOLONG
FOR ME.

TATSUMI
ASKED ME TO
COME WATCH
THE HOUSE.

AND SAID...
"PLEASE
TAKE CARE OF
TORA WHEN
HE WAKES
UP."



UM, EVERY-
BODY'S
GONE OUT
FOR A BIT.

COUGH

I THINK
SHIROU IS OUT
PLAYING WITH
KANOEMON
FOR A BIT.



[OOLONG TEA]
OOLONG

USES:

GOOD FOR FIGHTING
OFF DISEASE AND
STOMACHACHE. GOOD
FOR HANGOVERS
AS WELL

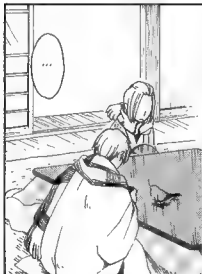


ARE YOU ALL
BETTER NOW,
KAYA?

AH. WHY
DON'T I GO
CALL FOR
THEM?



IT'S
PRETTY
BITTER,
THOUGH...



THAT WAS A LONG TIME AGO, HUH? BUT IT'S BEEN THREE YEARS SINCE THEN. EVEN IF I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU SINCE, IT'S SILLY TO ASK.

WHAT AM I SAYING.

?!

Ha ha.



YOU'RE MARRIED, AIN'TCHA!

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "PROBABLY"?

UH...

PROBABLY.

BUT I'M GLAD.

IS HE DOING WELL?

AH, HOW'S HANA?

FLINCH





YOU
SEEM
WELL.



AH.

KAYA?!



HUH?





BUT IT SEEMS
LIKE HER AND
HER HUSBAND
MAY BE AT THE
END OF THINGS.

TATSUMI TOLD
HER TO COME AND
STAY WITH US
FOR A WHILE.



...
I DON'T
KNOW A
GOOD WAY
OF SAYING
IT.



WHAT DO
YOU MEAN?



Ha ha
ha!

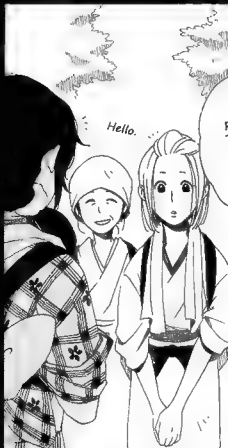
BUT THE TRUTH
IS, SHIORI'S DEATH
HURT A LOT OF
PEOPLE OTHER
THAN JUST YOU.



I GUESS YOU
DIDN'T KNOW,
RIGHT?





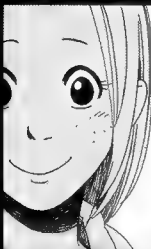


Hello.

PLEASD
TO MEET
YOU.

MY NAME
IS SHIORI.

I'LL BE
WORKING
HERE WITH
YOU ALL,
STARTING
TODAY.



GRIN





WOW!
SO
PRETTY!



LET'S HURRY
UP AND
GATHER THE
MEDICINE
OVER HERE!

HEY! YOU
TWO SLOW
GIRLS AND
TORA'S
PRINCESS!

Okaay!



UM, THOSE
ARE JUST FOR
LOOKING AT. BUT
ONCE THEY GET
REALLY BIG, WE
PLUCK THEM AND
USE THE STALKS
FOR MEDICINE.

AND THESE
ARE GOING
TO BECOME
MEDICINE?!

WHAT?



HUH?

DID HE REALLY
JUST CALL ME
A PRINCESS?



DOES HE
EVEN UNDER-
STAND WHAT
HE'S SAYING?

SMIRK
SMIRK

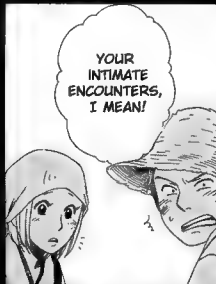
Hana!



HE'S
CRAZY.

OUT IN THE
COUNTRY
LIKE THIS,

IF YOU DON'T
TAKE A BRIDE
YOU'RE JUST
FOOLING
AROUND IN
THE DIRT.



YOUR
INTIMATE
ENCOUNTERS,
I MEAN!

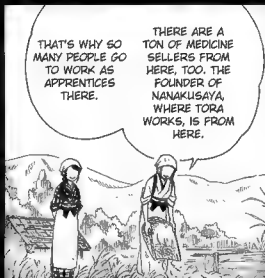
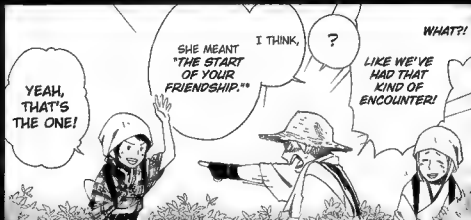


SOUNDS
GREAT!
CAN YOU
TELL ME
ALL ABOUT
IT?!

HANA!

BUT IT'S
UNBELIEVABLE,
RIGHT! I MEAN,
EVEN THOUGH HE'S
A MAN, HE'S SO
TOTALLY IGNORANT
OF THE WAY THE
WORLD WORKS.

I feel sorry
for him.



*Footnote: These phrases sound similar in Japanese. Skiori appears to have some vocabulary problems, both here and elsewhere in this chapter.





(*Footnote: Small wooden plaques where Shinto believers write their prayers. See <http://bit.ly/YakOxS>)

GIVE HIM TO
SANA NOW,
KAYA!

HE REALLY
LOOKS LIKE
YOU, SHIORI!

HIS NOSE
REMINDS
ME OF
TORA.

Wow!

SO
CUTE!

DON'T
WORRY.

MY OLDER
SISTER HAS A
TON OF KIDS.

I'M THE ONLY
ONE WHO STILL
DOESN'T HAVE
ANY.

I'M A
LITTLE
JEALOUS!

OKAY!

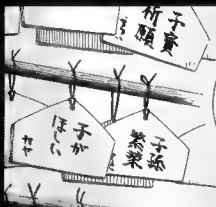
SANA WILL
BE YOUR
PAPA
NUMBER
TWO!

...

RIGHT?!

TO HAVE
KIDS!

I'M SURE
YOU'LL BE
NEXT, KAYA!



I...

I
WONDER...

YOUR WIFE
STILL HASN'T
CONCEIVED?!

HANA, YOU'RE MY
ELDEST SON. YOU
NEED TO GET ON
WITH IT ALREADY!

...



I MEAN, LOOK
AT TORA'S
WIFE'S KID. ALL
HE DOES IS CRY
CONSTANTLY.
IT'S SO NOISY.

KIDS'RE
BASICALLY
JUST TROUBLE
ANYWAY.

DON'T LET
WHAT MY OLD
MAN SAID GET
TO YA!

THEN...



NOT
REALLY.

HMM.

HANA, YOU
DON'T REALLY
WANT ANY
KIDS...?

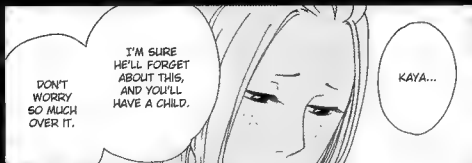




...
Ha ha ha!
TORA STILL
DOESN'T REALLY
PLAY WITH
SHIROU, AND HE
SAID HE'S GOING
BACK TO WORK
ALREADY
TOMORROW!

I SEE...

BUT MEN
ARE ALL
LIKE THAT.



DON'T
WORRY
SO MUCH
OVER IT.

I'M SURE
HE'LL FORGET
ABOUT THIS,
AND YOU'LL
HAVE A CHILD.

KAYA...



SHIORI, YOU
WOULDN'T
UNDERSTAND.



WOW,
LOOK
AT YOU
GO!

AHH!



THEY LEFT A
WHILE AGO.

THEY WERE
GONNA GO
UP TO THE
SHRINE ON
THE
MOUNTAIN
PEAK.

BUT
SHIROU'S
ALREADY AT
HIS LIMIT.

ME
TOO.

I KNOW SHE
WASN'T
SUPPOSED
TO COME
BACK UNTIL
NIGHTFALL,

SHUT UP.
I ASKED
YOU WHERE
SHIORI IS.



THEY BOTH
SHOT OUT OF
HERE IN A
HURRY.

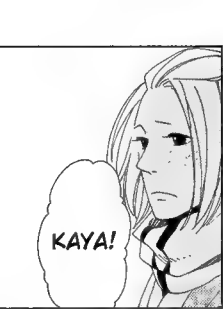
YEAH,
THAT'S WHAT
SHE SAID TO
KAYA.

WAAH!

WAAAAH!

THE
SHRINE?





KAYA!



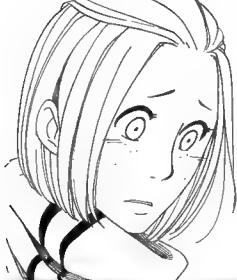
SHE'S A
FRIEND OF
YOUR MOM
AND DAD.

SHIROU,
DO YOU
REMEMBER
KAYA?



DID THE
DRUNKARD
FROM LAST
NIGHT WAKE
UP?

WHAT ARE
YOU DOING
WAY UP
HERE?



YEAH! SHIROU REMEMBERS!









CHATTER

DID MY MOM
TELL YOU
ABOUT IT?

YOU SURE
FOUND ME
QUICK, HUH?

WELL, THAT'S
OKAY. THIS IS
MY HIDEOUT.

CHATTER

CHATTER

I TOLD HER
NOT TO, AN'
ALL, BUT...

HEY.



WELL, LOOK
WHO THE CAT
DRAGGED IN.

I DIDN'T
THINK YOU'D
REALLY
SHOW.



YOU'RE THE
ONE WHO
RAN AWAY...



WHAT THE
HELL'VE YOU
BEEN DOING
WHILE I
WASN'T
HERE?!

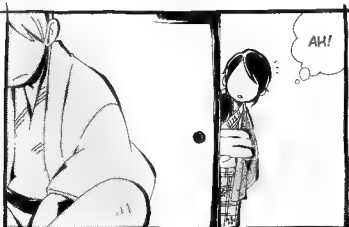
AND THAT
YOU GLYS'RE
BREAKING UP
BECAUSE OF
IT?

IS IT TRUE THAT
KAYA THINKS
SHIORI'S DEATH
IS HER FAULT?!

HURRY...

PLEASE, TORA...
YOU HAVE TO
SAVE KAYA!

SO WHOSE
FAULT DO
YOU THINK
THIS IS,
ANYWAY?!

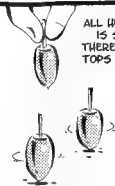


IF I LEAVE
THE ROOM FOR
A WHILE...

IT LOOKS LIKE WHILE I
WAS OUT, SHIROU AND
TORA HAVE BEEN
PLAYING(?) TOGETHER.



AND SHIROU
LOOKS LIKE HE
WANTS TO GO
OVER, BUT ISN'T.



ALL HE'S DOING
IS SITTING
THERE SPINNING
TOPS SILENTLY.

AH,
SHIROU'S
GOING
OVER!



I
WISH THEY
WOULD
GET ALONG
MORE.



AH.

RUUUUU



WHY DID
YOU
COME
OVER
HERE?!

WHAT?



I SEE...

IT'S BECAUSE THEY'VE
NEVER SPENT TOO
MUCH TIME ALONE
TOGETHER BEFORE.

IF THAT'S
HOW IT IS,
THEN...





CHICHIKOGUSA

[FATHER AND CHILD GRASS]

AUTHOR: TOGAU 4 MI

KAYA!

RUSTLE
RUSTLE
RUSTLE

CHAPTER 16: SHIORI'S WISH



FOUND
YOU!



YOU
THOUGHT
YOU COULD
STAY HIDDEN
THIS CLOSE
TO THE
HOUSE?

...



RUSTLE
RUSTLE
RUSTLE



UM...



ISN'T IT GREAT?

NOW
THE PATH
WON'T BE
DANGER-
OUS ANY
MORE!

THERE'S A
NEW FENCE
HERE NOW,
Y'KNOW.

I HELPED
BUILD IT,
TOO.



I SPENT A LOT
OF TIME COM-
PLAINING TO
SHIORI ABOUT
HOW I HADN'T
HAD KIDS.

BEFORE THE
ACCIDENT,

THE
DAY...



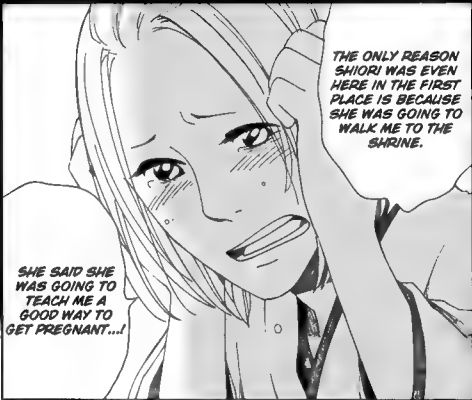
**THAT'S
NOT THE
POINT!**

HEY, NOW. THAT
ACCIDENT HAPPENED
BECAUSE THE RAIN
THE DAY BEFORE
WORE AWAY AT
THE PATH.



SHIORI
PROBABLY
NEVER
WOULD HAVE
SLIPPED ON
THIS PATH...

IF I
HADN'T
SAID
THAT,



THE ONLY REASON
SHIORI WAS EVEN
HERE IN THE FIRST
PLACE IS BECAUSE
SHE WAS GOING TO
WALK ME TO THE
SHRINE.

SHE SAID SHE
WAS GOING TO
TEACH ME A
GOOD WAY TO
GET PREGNANT...!

AND THE
REASON
SHE KEEPS
THINKING THOSE
DEPRESSING
THOUGHTS IS
ALL BECAUSE
OF ME.

THE REASON
SHE SAID SHE
DOESN'T WANT
TO COME HOME,



IF I
HADN'T
SAID ALL
THAT
STUFF,

SHIORI
WOULD
STILL
BE...

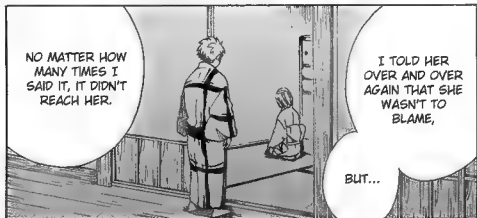




AFTER
FALLING OFF
THE CLIFF
WITH SHIORI.

KAYA...

NEVER FORGAVE
HERSELF FOR
BEING THE ONLY
SURVIVOR...



NO MATTER HOW
MANY TIMES I
SAID IT, IT DIDN'T
REACH HER.

I TOLD HER
OVER AND OVER
AGAIN THAT SHE
WASN'T TO
BLAME,

BUT...



HAVEN'T EVEN
BEEN ABLE TO
HOLD A SINGLE
CONVERSATION
LIKE WE USED TO.

WE...





KAAAAA-
YAAAAA!

AH,
IT'S
OKAY.

I WAS
JUST
ASKING.

IS
KAYA
HERE?

YEAH,
SHE'S
INSIDE.

SHIROU
DIDN'T
CRY AT
ALL!

OH, GOOD!
SHIROU'S
PERKING UP
AGAIN NOW.



THAT'S RIGHT.
I ALSO HAVE A
REQUEST FOR
YOU TWO.

A
REQUEST?!

OH.

YOU'RE NOT
GOING TO
WELCOME
THE NEW
YEAR WITH
EVERYONE?!
MOM'LL BE
MAD!

WHAT?!
EVEN
THOUGH
IT'S NEW
YEAR'S
EVE?!

HEY, SHIROU
AND I ARE
GOING TO
STAY AT OUR
OWN PLACE,
JUST FOR
TODAY.





RUSTLE

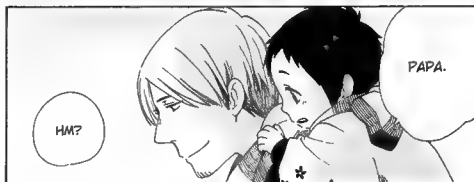


LATER!

...



YEAH!
LEAVE IT
TO US!



HM?

PAPA.



KAYA
WAS CRYING
EARLIER.



ISN'T IT WEIRD? SHE DIDN'T DO ANYTHING.



SHE TOLD ME STUFF,

WHAT...?

AND THEN SHE SAID SORRY.

Flop



TUG

I HOPE SHE FEELS BETTER SOON.

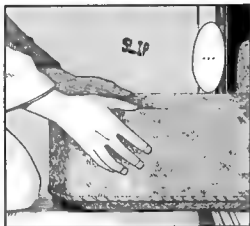
YOU DON'T LIKE IT WHEN YOUR FRIENDS ARE SAD, RIGHT PAPA?



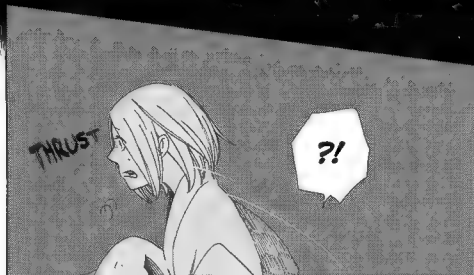
YEAH...

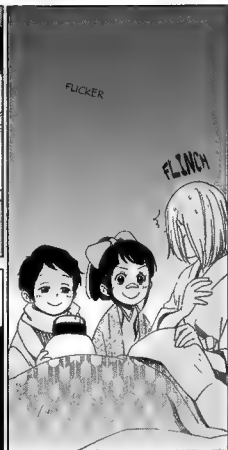
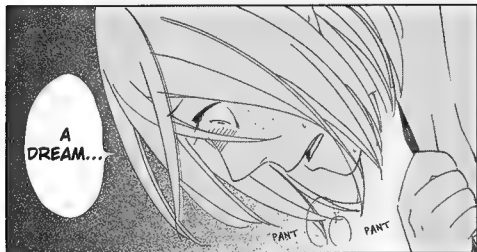


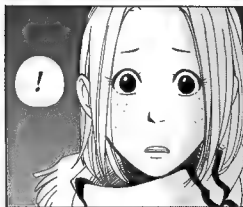
DON'T CRY, KAYA.



















WHY DON'T
YOU COME
WITH ME?

IF HANA'S
NO GOOD,

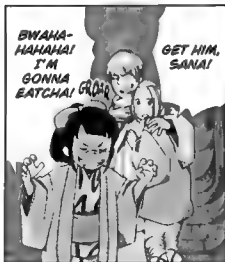


I
KNOW IT'S
SUDDEN.

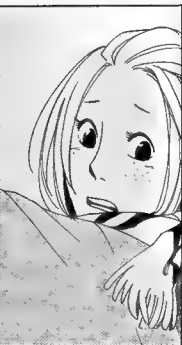
?!
WHAT?!

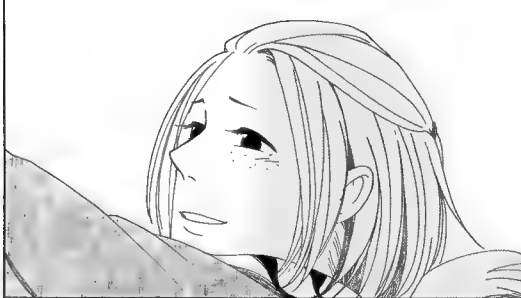


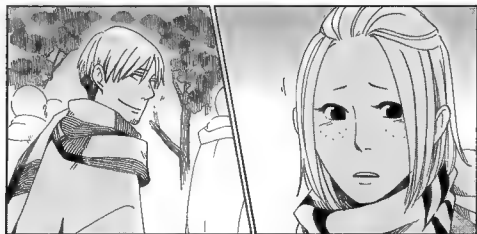
BUT I BET
WE COULD
HAVE A KID
STRAIGHT
AWAY. DON'T
YOU THINK?

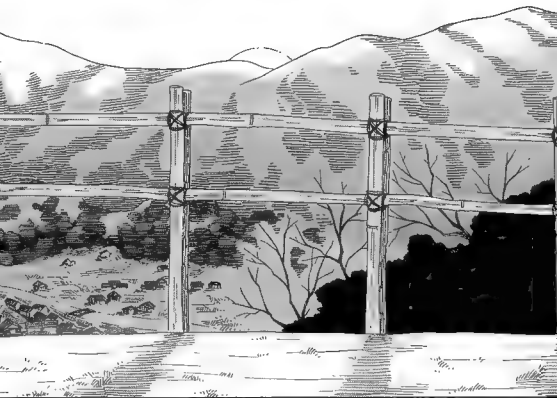
















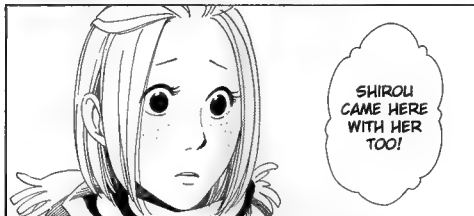
!
AH.
YEAH...

RIGHT,
KAYA?



MAMA LOVED
IT UP HERE,
YOU KNOW.

THIS PLACE
HAS A NICE
VIEW, HUH?



SHIROU
CAME HERE
WITH HER
TOO!



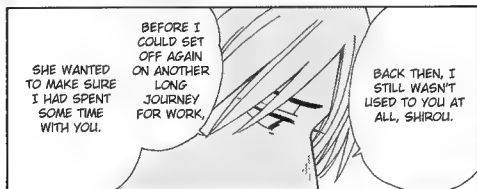
BY
HERSELF.

MAMA WAS
HERE, TOO,
ON... THAT
DAY.



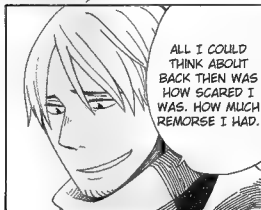
IS
THAT
SO?

WITH MAMA
AND KAYA!

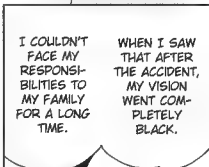




PLEASE LET
TORA AND SHIROU
GET ALONG WELL.
SHIORI



ALL I COULD
THINK ABOUT
BACK THEN WAS
HOW SCARED I
WAS. HOW MUCH
REMORSE I HAD.



I COULDN'T
FACE MY
RESPONSI-
BILITIES TO
MY FAMILY
FOR A LONG
TIME.

WHEN I SAW
THAT AFTER
THE ACCIDENT,
MY VISION
WENT COM-
PLETELY
BLACK.



EVEN NOW,
I FEEL
REGRETFUL
ABOUT IT.



I RAN AWAY
BECAUSE I
DIDN'T WANT TO
THINK ABOUT
IT.



I'M A
TERRIBLE
FATHER.

I'M STILL
NOT REALLY
USED TO IT, I
GUESS.

BUT
RIGHT
NOW,



RUFFLE

BUT ANY TIME
I DO, I JUST
LOOK AT THIS
KID'S SMILE.



I REALLY
WANT TO FOCUS
ON MAKING HIM
SMILE MORE
AND MORE.

THAT'S ALL I
LET MYSELF
THINK ABOUT.



TAKE A
LOOK AT
THE OTHER
SIDE OF THE
TABLET.

KAYA.



PLEASE LET KAYA
FEEL HAPPIER
SOON.
SHIORI



SHIORI!





I PAID A VISIT
TO KAYA'S
BROTHER, WHO
WAS STUDYING
MEDICINE.

IT MUST HAVE
BEEN FIVE
YEARS AGO
NOW.



AT THE TIME, WE'D BEEN
LIVING TOGETHER FOR
TWO YEARS ALREADY,
BUT HADN'T BEEN ABLE
TO HAVE ANY CHILDREN.

TELL ME WHAT
YOU CAME HERE
FOR AND LEAVE.

WOW, THIS
LOOKS REAL
PRETTY IF YOU
SHAKE IT!



KAYA SEEMS
A LITTLE DIST-
RESSED LATELY.

IT'S NOT
EXACTLY
THAT EASY.

GIVE HER
SOMETHING
SO SHE CAN
CONCEIVE,
OKAY?

BROTHER-IN-
LAW SOUMA,

YOU WORK
MAKING MEDICINE
FOR PEOPLE,
RIGHT?

I DIDN'T WANT
TO MAKE A BIG
DEAL OUT OF
IT, IF WE
COULDN'T.

I WONDER WHAT
THE BEST THING
IS FOR ME TO
DO...?



I THOUGHT
IT'D BE NICE
TO SEE THAT
IN REAL LIFE,
TOO.

BUT...



KAYA HAD DREAMED
OF HOLDING A CHILD
IN HER ARMS SINCE
SHE WAS ONE HER-
SELF.



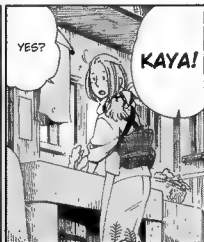
CHICHIROGUSA

[FATHER AND CHILD GRASS]

AUTHOR: TAGAWA MI

CHAPTER 17:
SHIROU AND THE BROTHER AND SISTER







SISTER,

THIS IS A NEW
MEDICINE I'VE
MADE WHICH
SHOULD HELP
THE FEMALE BODY
PREPARE FOR
PREGNANCY.



EVEN
THOUGH
IT TOOK
FIVE YEARS
TO GET A
DECENT
CROP, WE
HAVE FINALLY
SUCCEEDED.



IF THAT
MAN HAD
NOT GROWN
THEM, I
WOULD NOT
HAVE HAD
THESE IN-
GREDIENTS.

THIS
MEDICINE IS
MADE FROM
HERBAL IN-
GREDIENTS.

THEY WERE
PLANTED BY A
CERTAIN MAN
WHO WANTS
TO GIVE HIS
WIFE A CHILD.

THAT MAN
ASKED ME TO
KEEP ALL THIS
A SECRET
FROM YOU, AND
PRETEND IT
WAS MY OWN
DECISION.

SO PLEASE
FORGET
ABOUT THIS
LETTER.

YOUR
BROTHER





ITS NAME* MEANS
THAT ANY SICKNESS
WILL GO AWAY AND
YOU'LL FEEL BETTER,
AND IT WON'T COME
BACK AGAIN.

[ANGELICA ROOT]

ANGELICAE RADIX

EFFECTIVENESS:
HEALS ILLNESSES,
ETCETERA.

(NOTE: THE JAPANESE NAME, TOIKI ("当帰"),
LITERALLY READS "ARRIVE AT RIGHTNESS")



IT'S
"ANGELICA
ROOT"!



THANK
YOU.

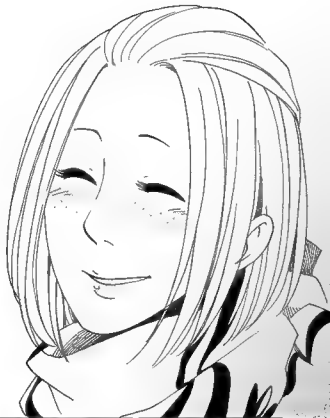
HUH?



HUH? THE
LITTLE GUY
WENT HOME
ALREADY?

I WAS
GOING TO
GIVE HIM
SOME
DAIKON...







YEAH.

YOU'RE
GROWING
UP, SHIROU.

DOING
ERRANDS
LIKE THIS
ALL BY
YOURSELF...



HOW
RUDE.

IF I DON'T EXPOSE
MYSELF, MY ALLER-
GIES TO FLOWERS
WILL NEVER STOP,
AND MY MUCUS
WILL KEEP MAKING
ME...

WHAT'S WITH
YOU TWO?
CAN'T A GUY
GET ANY PRI-
VACY...?



IT'S WINTER.
THERE ARE
NO FLOWERS.



JUST
GO
HOME!

YOU'RE PROBABLY
CURSED. I BET
SOME EVIL SPIRIT
HAS A GRUDGE
AGAINST YOU.

You oughta
go see a
priest.



WAIT.

HOW LONG
HAVE YOU
BEEN
SITTING
THERE?!

I DRANK SO
MUCH YESTER-
DAY THAT SOME
SAKE GOT IN
MY EYES...



Both
of us.

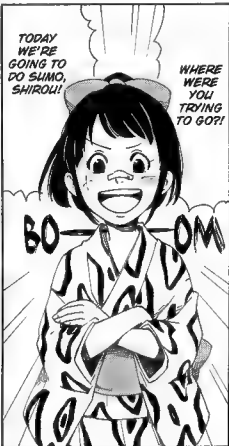
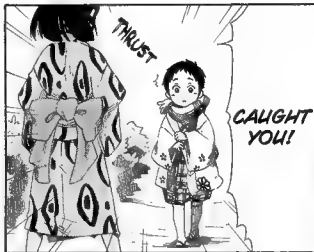
THE WHOLE
TIME, OBVI-
OUSLY.

PEEK

YOU
TOO?!













**IT'S
BECAUSE
SANA IS
SHIROU'S
SISTER!**

**EVEN IF HE
DISLIKES ME,
I'M NOT GONNA
LEAVE MY PRE-
CIOUS YOUNGER
BROTHER ALONE!**



ANYWAY,



OH
WELL.

Heh



AH.

GRAAAAAH!

**COME
BACK
HERE,
SHIROU!**

SHIROU
NEVER REALLY
ADJUSTED TO
US VERY
WELL.

ALTHOUGH
I THINK IT'S
MOSTLY BE-
CAUSE OF MY
SISTER...

I'M SORRY IF
SHIROU ENDS
UP CRYING
AGAIN.

UNCLE
TORA,

WOULD
IT BE
OKAY...

BUT BECAUSE
OF THE WAY
SANA PLAYS,
SHIROU ALWAYS
JUST ENDED UP
CRYING.

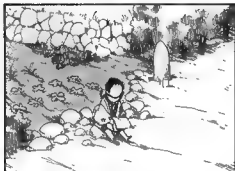


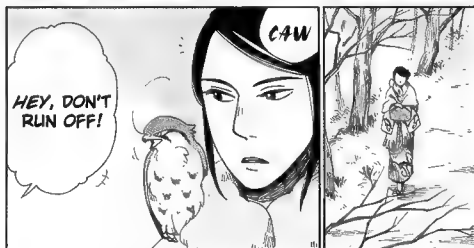
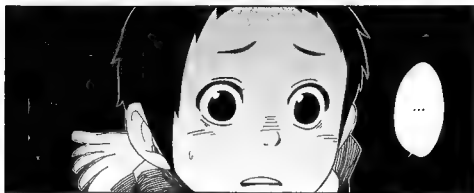
MOM TOLD US
WHEN SHIROU
WAS VERY SMALL
THAT WE HAD TO
TAKE CARE OF
HIM.

IF WE TRY TO
BE SHIROU'S
BROTHER AND
SISTER ONE
MORE TIME?

ALL THE
SAME...









SHIROU...



DON'T YOU
HAVE A GIFT
FOR US?



SNATCH

OH!

LOOK, HE'S
GOT SEA-
SHELLS!



WOW,
THEY'RE
HUGE.



NO!
GIVE
'EM
BACK...

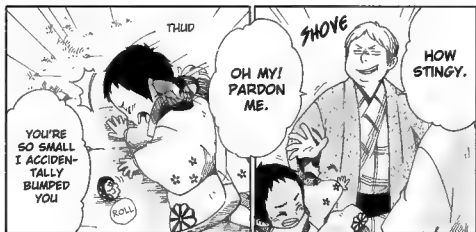


YOU AND
YOUR DAD GO
ALL OVER,
RIGHT?

YOU GOTTA
HAVE SOME-
THING.

TUG

AH.





**MY
PAPA'S
NOT A
WEAK-
LING!**

**AND
SHIROU
DOESN'T
CRY ANY
MORE!**



**IF YOU'RE
REALLY NOT
GONNA CRY
WE'LL HAVE TO
MAKE YOU.**

**YOU SURE
GOT RUDE.**



WHAT?



WHAT
THE
HELL
ARE
YOU
JERKS
DOING?!





ANYONE WHO
WANTS TO MESS
WITH SANA'S
LITTLE BROTHER
WILL HAVE TO GO
THROUGH HER
FIRST!

YOU
SHOULDN'T
SCREW
AROUND WITH
A LITTLE KID
LIKE HIM!

RUSSLE

SLAM



YOU DID
GOOD NOT
CRYING,
SHIROU.

**SHUT
UP!**

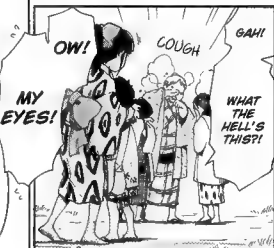
IT'S THE
MONKEY
GIRL!

OOOOW.

SANAKO?!











Hee
hee!



HEEY!
TORA!

SNIFF

HE'S ALWAYS
IN THE SAME
PLACE IN THE
FOREST.

HE RUNS OFF
LIKE THIS. I'M
THE ONE WHO
HAS TO GO
COLLECT HIM.

EVERY
TIME OUR
SISTER
SCOLDS
HIM,

SOB

SNIFF

HE JUST CRIES
HIMSELF TO
SLEEP BENEATH
THAT TREE.

EVERY
TIME HE
JUST
DOES THE
SAME
THING!

HE'D GET
SPOILED!

CAN'T
YOU JUST
FORGIVE HIM
ALREADY?

IT'S BEEN
A WHILE.

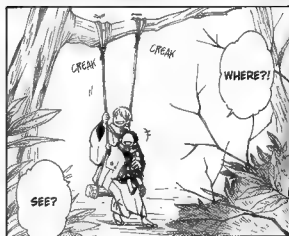
I'LL HAVE
TO BE THE
ONE WHO
COMFORTS
HIM AFTER
THIS, TOO.

SNIFF

NEXT TIME
HE DOES IT,
HE CAN JUST
STAY GONE!

FLINCH

TRUTH IS, MY
SISTER ONLY
GETS MAD
BECAUSE SHE
LOVES HIM
SO MUCH.



WHEN HE
LOST HIS
WIFE, MY
YOUNGER
BROTHER
WENT COM-
PLETELY
MAD.



CHICHIROGUSA

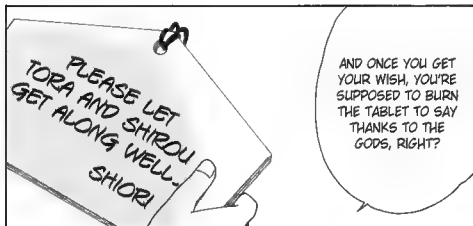
[FATHER AND CHILD GRASS]

AUTHOR: TAGAWA MI



CHAPTER 18: FATHER AND CHILD'S NEW JOURNEY









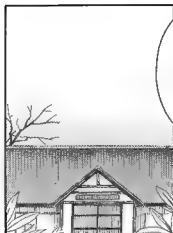












YEAH.



MOOOM!
SANA'S GONNA
GO FLY KITES
WITH SHIROU!



SANAKO!
DON'T LEAVE
YOUR BAG
LYING AROUND
IN THE ENTRY-
WAY!



WE'RE
BACK!





THERE IS
SOMETHING
YOU WANT TO
SAY, ISN'T
THERE?



AH...

LIM.



AH!

WAIT!

LISTEN...



IF THERE
ISN'T, I'M
LEAVING.

OW!

CHOMP!



THAT
IS...

CHOMP





I'LL TAKE
CARE OF HIM
FOR YOU.



I'VE BEEN
WATCHING THE
TWO OF YOU
WHILE YOU'RE
HERE.

NO.

AH,

WHAT?!

SHIROU'S
BECOME REALLY
STRONG, TOO.



THE TWO OF YOU
HAVE GROWN
A LOT CLOSER
TOGETHER.

SO THAT'S
NOT WHY I'M
SAYING THIS.



IT TOOK
A WHILE,

BUT IT SEEMS
YOU'RE FINALLY
STARTING TO
UNDERSTAND
HOW TO BE A
FATHER.

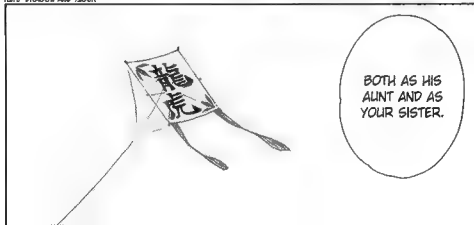


BUT YOU HAVE
TO REALIZE
THAT SHIROU
IS ONLY FOUR
YEARS OLD.





KITE: DRAGON AND TIGER











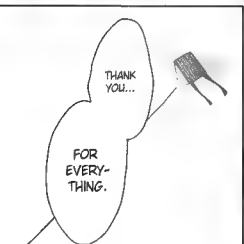
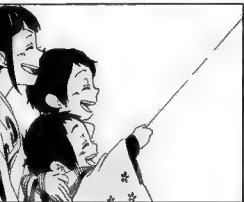
TAKE GOOD
CARE OF
HIM, OKAY?

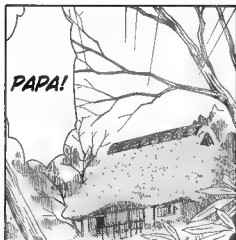


AND IF ANYTHING
GOES WRONG,
YOU'RE TO COME
HOME STRAIGHT
AWAY.

THIS IS LOUSY
NEWS, BUT
I'LL GIVE YOU
UNTIL THE
FIRST OF THE
MONTH.



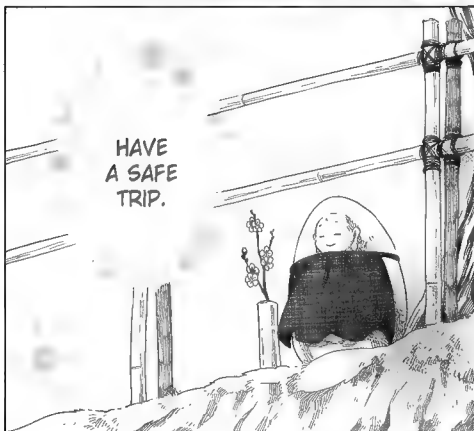














CHICHIKOGUSA
[FATHER AND CHILD GRASS]



EXTRAS...

KANBE

THE MIDDLE CHILD STILL UNMARRIED(?). I WONDER WHAT WILL HAPPEN

THE ELDEST SIBLING. SHE'S FINALLY APPEARED! TENDS TO WORRY A LOT.

TAT-SUMI

SONNA

TATSUMI'S HUSBAND. STUDIED TO BE A DOCTOR.

HANA-MARU

TORA'S COUSIN.

KOHTA

TECHNICALLY SHIROU'S COUSINS, BUT THEY ACT MORE LIKE OLDER SIBLINGS.

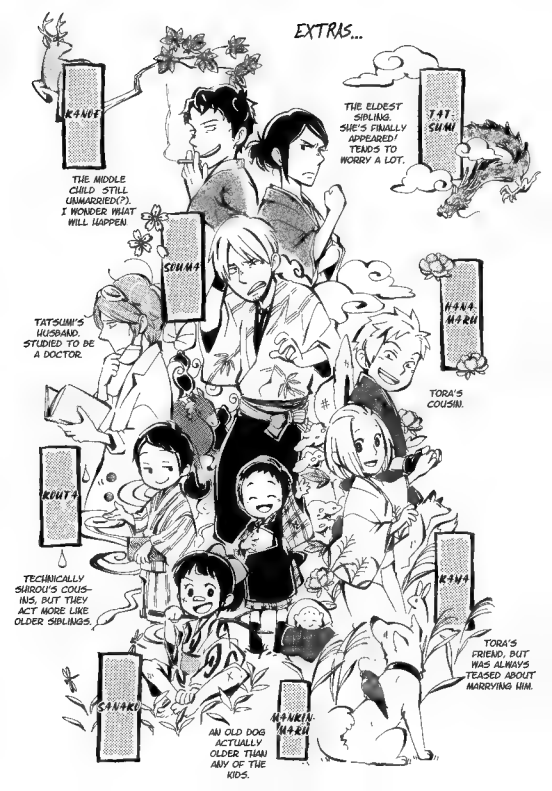
KANA

SANAKO

AN OLD DOG ACTUALLY OLDER THAN ANY OF THE KIDS.

MANKIN-MARU

TORA'S FRIEND, BUT WAS ALWAYS TEASED ABOUT MARRYING HIM.



SOAP
BERRY

THE BERRIES OF THIS PLANT WERE USED AS SHUTTLECOCKS FOR BATTLEDORRE, AN EARLY FORM OF BADMINTON. IN JAPANESE, THE SOAPBERRY'S NAME IS WRITTEN WITH THE CHARACTERS "CHILDREN WILL NOT BECOME ILL" AND IS PRONOUNCED "MIKUROJI."

BECAUSE OF THE CHARACTERS USED FOR WRITING THE PLANT'S NAME, BATTLEDORRE WAS SUPPOSED TO WARD OFF ILL HEALTH IN (USUALLY FEMALE) CHILDREN.



ACCORDING TO AN OLD CHINESE STORY, THERE WAS ONCE A WOMAN WHO COULD NOT HAVE A CHILD. SENT BACK TO HER PARENTS' HOME, SHE BREWED THIS HERB AND DRANK IT, REGAINING GOOD HEALTH THROUGHOUT HER BODY.

ANGELICA
ROOT



BECAUSE THE MEDICINE ALLOWED HER TO RETURN TO HER HUSBAND WITH CERTAINTY, ITS CHINESE NAME WAS WRITTEN WITH THE CHARACTERS FOR "CERTAINTY" AND "RETURN."

THERE ARE VARIOUS OTHER ETYMOLOGIES FOR THE NAME, AS WELL.



RADISH,

PARSLEY,

DEAD-
NETTLE,

SHEP-
HERD'S
PURSE,

CHICK-
WEED,

AND
JERSEY
CUDWEED!

TURNIP,

SEVEN
PLANT
RICE
GRUEL

LOOK,
PAPA!



AH, SO IT
COULD BE
WITH THE
MAMA!

WHY DID YOU
GATHER SOME
REGULAR CUD-
WEED TOO?

HUH?

YAY!

ALL RIGHT,
LET'S THROW
THEM ALL IN.

ON THE SEVENTH DAY OF THE
NEW YEAR, IT'S TRADITIONAL
TO MAKE RICE GRUEL WITH
THESE SEVEN PLANTS. EATING
IT IS SUPPOSED TO BE A SIN-
CERE WISH FOR GOOD HEALTH
IN THE YEAR TO COME.

TURNIP.
CHICKWEED.
SHEPHERD'S PURSE.
PARSLEY.
RADISH.
DEAD-NETTLE.
JERSEY CUDWEED (SEE NOTE).

EIGHT
PLANTS!

ALL RIGHT
THEN. WE'LL
MAKE EIGHT
PLANT GRUEL
INSTEAD.

Chop
Chop

YEAH!

WANT
SEC-
ONDS?

STILL
NOT
READY?

END

(THE COMMON JAPANESE NAME FOR JERSEY CUDWEED IS "MOTHER AND
CHILD GRASS." THAT'S WHY SHIROU ALSO GATHERED REGULAR CUDWEED,
KNOWN AS "FATHER AND CHILD GRASS"--AND THE TITLE OF THIS MANGA.)

HELLO! THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR PASSING ANOTHER
YEAR WITH CHICHIKOGUSA! ALTHOUGH THIS VOLUME
ENDED UP BEING MOSTLY ABOUT STAYING HOME.

I FEEL LIKE I'VE DEVIATED A LITTLE FROM THE IDEA
OF A FAMILY STORY ABOUT A FATHER AND SON, SINCE
THERE WERE SO MANY RELATIVES IN THIS VOLUME,
STARTING WITH TORAKICHI'S SISTER.

TORAKICHI AND SHIROU MAY BE THE ONLY TWO
MEMBERS OF THEIR OWN FAMILY, BUT IT WOULD BE
TOO PAINFUL IF THEY DIDN'T HAVE ANY EXTENDED
FAMILY EITHER.

THE NEXT VOLUME WILL RETURN TO
BEING ABOUT JUST THE TWO OF
THEM, SO LOOK FORWARD TO IT!

ALL THAT SAID, I'LL SEE YOU THEN.
THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR CON-
TINUED INTEREST IN MY WORK!

田
(1)
三

TAGAWA MI





ちちこぐさ ③

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